

SYNONYMY BETWEEN *LEPTOTHORAX CAPARICA* HENIN, PAIVA & COLLINGWOOD, 2001 AND *CARDIOCONDYLA MAURITANICA* FOREL, 1890 (HYMENOPTERA, FORMICIDAE).

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Short note

A new species was recently described by HENIN *et al.* (2001) in the ant genus *Leptothorax* Mayr, 1855 (Hymenoptera, Formicidae). Four workers were collected in 2000, and later on more, about 30 km South from Lisbon, and named *Leptothorax caparica* sp. n.. However, the pictures and description of the species strongly recalled the genus *Cardiocondyla*. Accordingly, further analyse and identification by discriminant functions enabled the determination of the workers as *Cardiocondyla mauritanica* Forel, 1890, with an error probability of $p < 0.0001$ (B. Seifert, pers. com.). *L. caparica* is thus a synonym of *C. mauritanica*. This cosmopolitan species is mainly distributed in semi-deserts and other xerothermous habitats (SEIFERT, 2003). First record for Iberia was reported by ORTIZ and TINAUT (1988): the sample originated from Malaga (Spain). Afterwards, ESPADALER (1992) caught the species in the south of Barcelona. Although not all Spanish records of *C. mauritanica* have been published, the species is, at present, known from many regions of Spain (ESPADALER, pers. com.). For Portugal however, the species was neither mentioned in COLLINGWOOD & PRINCE (1998), nor in a more recent catalogue by SALGUEIRO (2002). If correctly identified, our record would have been the first one for Portugal. SEIFERT (2003) also reports the presence of this species in, or near, "Montemor" (it is not known if it concerns Montemor-o-Velho or Montemor-o-Novo). According to the same author, *C. mauritanica* is "one of the most abundant and most widely distributed *Cardiocondyla* species of the world". It is thus very likely that future ant surveys in Portugal will lead to other records of this species ... as well as to other original findings.

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